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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01017 140806Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
ACDA-12 /084 W
----------097861 141038Z /15
R 131534Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3278
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1017

E. 0. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UR, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH REACTION TO ALLEGED SOVIET ESPIONAGE FROM LONG-HAUL TRAILERS

1. SWEDISH OFFICIALS INTERVIEWED IN PRESS MARCH 12 WERE ASKED THEIR REACTIONS TO STORY APPEARING IN MARCH 11 LONDON TIMES ALLEGING THAT LONG-HAUL SOVIET TRAILER TRUCKS ARE USED FOR MILITARY INTELLIGENCE PURPOSES IN SCANDINAVIA. THE STORY ALLEGED THAT SUCH VEHICLES ARE PLACED AT STRATEGIC LOCATIONS TO FERRET OUT INFORMATION ON MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS.

2. COMMENTING ON THE ALLEGATIONS, ROLAND ENGDAHL, CHIEF OF THE SWEDISH BORDER DEFENSE, EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT SUCH ESPIONAGE IS GOING ON. ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF CHECKS MADE ON SUCH VEHICLES WAS SMALL, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS DO MAKE
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SPOT CHECKS ON OCCASION. HOWEVER, HE DENIED THAT MILITARY OR OTHER OFFICIALS HAD ASKED HIS OFFICERS TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL WITH THE SOVIET "TIR" TRAFFIC. AT THE SAME TIME, HE THOUGH IT "REASONABLE IN THE HIGHEST DEGREE" THAT CLOSER INSPECTION BE MADE OF SOVIET BLOC TIR VEHICLES.

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3. BERTIL LAGERWELL OF THE DEFENSE STAFF EMPHASIZED THAT NO DIRECT EVIDENCE OF SUCH ESPIONAGE EXISTS; HOWEVER, HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR SUSPICION, GIVEN SIGHTINGS OF SOVIET BLOC TIR TRAILERS WHICH HAD STOPPED AT STRAGEGICALLY SENSITIVE PLACES AND CLOSE TO MILITARY EXERCISES. HE SAW THE UTILITY FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES IN BEING ABLE TO CONFIRM INFORMATION FERRETED OUT FROM OTHER SOURCES AND TO GAIN VALUABLE INFORMATION ON LOCAL MILITARY RADIO TRAFFIC.

4. LARS ROMERT, OF THE MFA'S INFORMATION SECTION, EXPLAINED THAT SWEDES ARE AWARE THAT FOREIGN POWERS CARRY OUT INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF DIFFERENT FORMS IN SWEDEN. MFA, HE SAID, HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT INTELLIGENCE WORK AS DESCRIBED IN THE TIMES ARTICLE PROBABLY GOES ON AS WELL, BUT THERE IS LITTLE SWEDISH AUTHORITIES CAN DO ABOUT IT UNLESS PROOF OR CLEAR GROUNDS FOR SUSPICION EXIST. IF THE INFORMATION IN THE TIMES ARTICLE CAN BE SUPPORTED, THE MFA WOULD REACT VERY SHARPLY AGAINST THE COUNTRY IN QUESTION.

5. HOLGER BLIXT OF THE SWEDISH CUSTOMS OFFICE EXPLAINED THAT THERE ARE ALMOST NO SOVIET BLOC LONG-HAUL TRAILERS THAT PASS THROUGH SWEDEN UNDER TIR NORMS, AS THEY HAVE NO REASON TO TRANSPORT CARGO IN THAT FASHION. IN ADDITION, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE ALREADY
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USED UP THEIR MILEAGE QUOTA FOR SUCH TRIPS AND THAT NO SOVIET TIR VEHICLES ARE BEING ALLOWED TO DRIVE THROUGH THE COUNTRY AT THIS TIME.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 13 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780374/aaaackuc.tel
Line Count: 98
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Subject: SWEDISH REACTION TO ALLEGED SOVIET ESPIONAGE FROM LONG- HAUL TRAILERS
TAGS: PINT, UR, SW
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